COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF FOR A SPECIAL HEARING ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER SOLLERS POINT RD AND WILLIAMS AVE BALTIMORE COUNTY (118 WILLIAMS AVENUE) 12TH ELECTION DISTRICT CASE NO. 90-322-SPH 7TH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

This case comes before this Board on appeal from a decision by the Zoning Commissioner denying the Petition for Special Hearing to determine the noncon rming use of the building on the corner of Sollers Point Road and Williams Avenue as a tavern. The case was heard this day in its entirety.

Both parties were represented by counsel. Petitioner presented as his witnesses Crystal Stefanis, personal representative of the estate of Ermanuel Stefanis; John Maykrantz, a building contractor; Kenneth Bryant, a neighbor who resides at 1803 Willow Spring Road; Kenneth Lee Bryant, his son; and Cornelius Devese, a neighbor; and presented a list of witnesses favoring the Petition, 15 in number. Protestants presented Stephen Hughes, & neighbor whose house is directly across the street from the subject site, and Anna Cook, a neighbor who also lives across the street and has lived in this house for 70 years. Protestants also presented a list of witnesses in opposition to the Petition, 6 in

From the testimony and evidence received, it is clear that a business has been conducted on this site since about 1941. This business in 1941 consisted of a restaurant with a beer and wine license. This business was conducted until at least 1969, when it

Case No. 90-322-SPH Crystal Maria Stefanis was purchased by Mr. Emmanuel Stefanis. In 1972, the Health Department ordered the property owner to install proper restroom facilities for men and women. There was extensive testimony that this area was an area 11 feet by 25 feet. In the Board's opinion, this does not materially alter the footprint of the building. In 1972, the kitchen as it existed was condemned by the Baltimore County Health Department and abandoned. The establishment, lowever, sull has a food service permit and still serves food, more of the fast-food variety than the meal-type variety. Petitioner's witnesses all testified as to the existence of this building and the business conducted therein uninterruptedly since the early 1940's and testified that it has always had the license to serve alcoholic beverages and food on one kind or another. All of Petitioner's witnesses testified that the only addition to the building is the area 11 feet by 25 feet built to accommodate the

Protestants' testimony indicated that when the business was originally started it was more of a restaurant than it was a bar. There was no testimony, however, as to any interruption in the continued use and renewals of the liquor license. Protestants testified that they are experiencing more problems with patrons parking on-site than was noted in the past. They also agreed that traffic in general has dramatically increased since 1941.

Mrs. Anna Cook, who lives across the street had has done so for 70 years, stated that she had had no problem with this establishment until it changed hands in 1969 and that instead of a neighborhood eating place it is now just a bar, and that she can

Case No. 90-322-SPH Crystal Maria Stefanis see all the patrons, observe their fights and other unbecoming conduct. Petitioners noted that these problems had been testified to and had been addressed by the Liquor Board when it re-issued its permit entered as Petitioner's Exhibit No. 6. The actual testimony and evidence presented this day is a matter of record and this encapsulation is in no way intended to completely cover its

It is the opinion of this Board that the nonconforming use for this business has as a fact been established. In the original regulations provided for a nonconforming use, the statute reads as follows:

"A lawful nonconforming use existing on the effective date of the adoption of these regulations may continue, nonconforming use to a conforming use, or any attempt to a nonconforming structure shall be damaged by fire or otherwise to the extent of seventy-five (75%) percent of its value, the right to continue to resume such nonconforming use shall terminate, provided, however, that any such lawful nonconforming use may be extended or enlarged to an extent not more than once again the area of the land used in the original nonconforming use." Section XI, 1945, B.C.Z.R.

The testimony in this case indicates that the nonconforming use had existed in 1945 and has uninterruptedly continued, that use being the disbursing of food and alcoholic beverages. In March 1955, Section 104.1 covering nonconforming uses was enacted. There has been no change in the use of this property that would be affected by this statute. The same is true as legislated by Bill No. 18-76. The only physical change to the building was the courtordered erection of the 11-foot by 25-foot room to provide

Case No. 90-322-SPH Crystal Maria Stefanis

restrooms, and this does not constitute any significant change in the building proper. The testimony and evidence received all indicate that the business began prior to 1945 as a business to serve food and alcoholic beverages. Nothing in the testimony received indicates any radical or significant change from this original business. It started out as a foot and beverage business and has continued through the present use, allowing only for normal changes occasioned by the passing of the years.

It is therefore this 12th day of October the County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County ORDERED that the Petition for Special Hearing for a nonconforming use be and the same is GRANTED.

Any appeal from this decision must be made in accordance with Rules B-1 through B-13 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure. COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS

OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

IN RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING NW/Corner Sollers Point Road and Williams Avenue \* ZONING COMMISSIONER (118 Williams Avenue) 12th Election District \* OF BALTIMORE COUNTY 7th Councilmanic District

> Crystal Maria Stefanis for the Estate of Emmanual A. Stefanis - \* Petitioners ...

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

\* Case No. 90-322-SPH

The Petitioners herein request a special hearing to approve the nonconforming use of the subject property as a tavern business in accordance with the plat pre-filed with the Petition dated December 6, 1989.

The Petitioner, by Crystal Maria Stefanis as personal representative for the Estate of Emmanual A. Stefanis, appeared, testified, and was represented by Louis L. DePazzo, Esquire. Also appearing on behalf of the Petition were Angel G. Stefanis, Kornelius C. Devese, Kenneth L. Bryant, and Kenneth J. Bryant. The following individuals appeared as Protestants in the matter: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Hughes, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Ron D'Aurora, Lindsay D'Aurora, Matthew D'Aurora, Debbie Cook, John Janowich, Charles Spencer, Jr., and C. L. Cook.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, known as 118 Williams Avenue, consists of 7,066.56 sq.ft. zoned D.R. 5.5, and is the site the Crystal Bar and Restaurant. Mrs. Crystal Stefanis testified that she has been familiar with the property for the past 21 years and that to her knowledge, the property has always been used as a bar. She testified that the bar is surrounded by a residential neighborhood and that the size and shape of the subject building has not changed in the 21 years that she has been familiar with the property.

Kenneth J. Bryant testified on behalf of the Petition that he has



lived in the neighborhood since January, 1943, except for a brief period during the years of 1945 and 1950 when he served in the U.S. Army. He testified that to his knowledge, the subject building has always been utilized as a bar continuously and without interruption since 1943.

Cornelius C. Devese testified on behalf of the Petition that he has been personally familiar with the subject property since 1942 and to his knowledge, the tavern use has not changed significantly over the years. He testified that he was absent from the State of Maryland for several years, returning in March of 1945.

Kenneth L. Bryant, Jr. testified on behalf of the Petition that he currently manages the tavern business and lives in the apartment above the bar. He testified that he has been personally familiar with the subject property for approximately the past 25 years and to his knowledge, the bar has never been closed, with the exception of the day Mr. Stefanis

Stephen E. Hughes, Sr. appeared and testified as a Protestant. He testified that he lives across the street from the subject property on Williams Avenue and stated that the tavern use has been an on-going problem for the surrounding community. Mr. Hughes testified that the parking provided on the subject site is inadequate and that patrons to the ber frequently park along his street. He stated that on one occasion, a patron of the ber pulled a gun on his children and that on another occasion, an unruly patron punched him in the face. He said it is a frequent occurence for bar patrons to stand along Williams Avenue and urinate on the street. He also testified that contrary to Petitioners' testimony, the rear portion of the building, including the rest room area, is a relatively new addition to the structure, being constructed in the early 1970s.



Mrs. Fredericka Hughes appeared and testified as a Protestant and concurred with Mr. Hughes' testimony. Mr. Coleman Cook appeared and testified as a Protestant and basically concurred with Mr. Hughes' testimony.

James Cook, a resident of Williams Avenue, also appeared and testified as a Protestant. He indicated that the only time the grass on the subject property is cut is when one of the residents complains to the Baltimore County Health Department. He testified that on numerous occasions, the residents of the community have cut the grass themselves and that he has frequently seen rats run is and out of the rear of the subject building.

John Jancowicz testified that the sidewalk along Sollers Point Road has been obliterated by the paving of the Crystal Bar parking lot and that it has created a dangerous situation for pedestrians. He also indicated that the school buses must cut across the lot where the sidewalks should be to negotiate the turn at Sollers Point Road and Williams Avenue.

The first zoning regulations were adopted and took effect on January 2, 1945. See Kahl v. Cons. Gas Elec. Light. and Pwr. Co., 191 Md. 249, 254, 60 A.2d 754 (1948); Calhoun v. County Board of Appeals, 262 Hd. 265, 277 A.2d 589 (1971).

Section II of those regulations created seven zones, four being residential, one commercial, and two industrial. See McKemy v. Baltimore County, Md., 39 Md. App. 257, 385 A.2d 96 (1978).

Those original regulations provided for nonconforming uses. The tatute read as follows:

"A lawful nonconforming use existing on the effective date of the adoption of these regulations may continue, provided, however, upon any change from such nonconforming use to a conforming use, or any attempt to change from such nonconforming use to a different nonconforming use or any discontinuance of such noncon-

nonconforming structure shall be damaged by fire or otherwise to the extent of seventy-five (75%) percent of its value, the right to continue to resume such nonconforming use shall terminate, provided, however, that any such lawful nonconforming use may be extended or enlarged to an extent not more than once again the area of the land used in the original non-

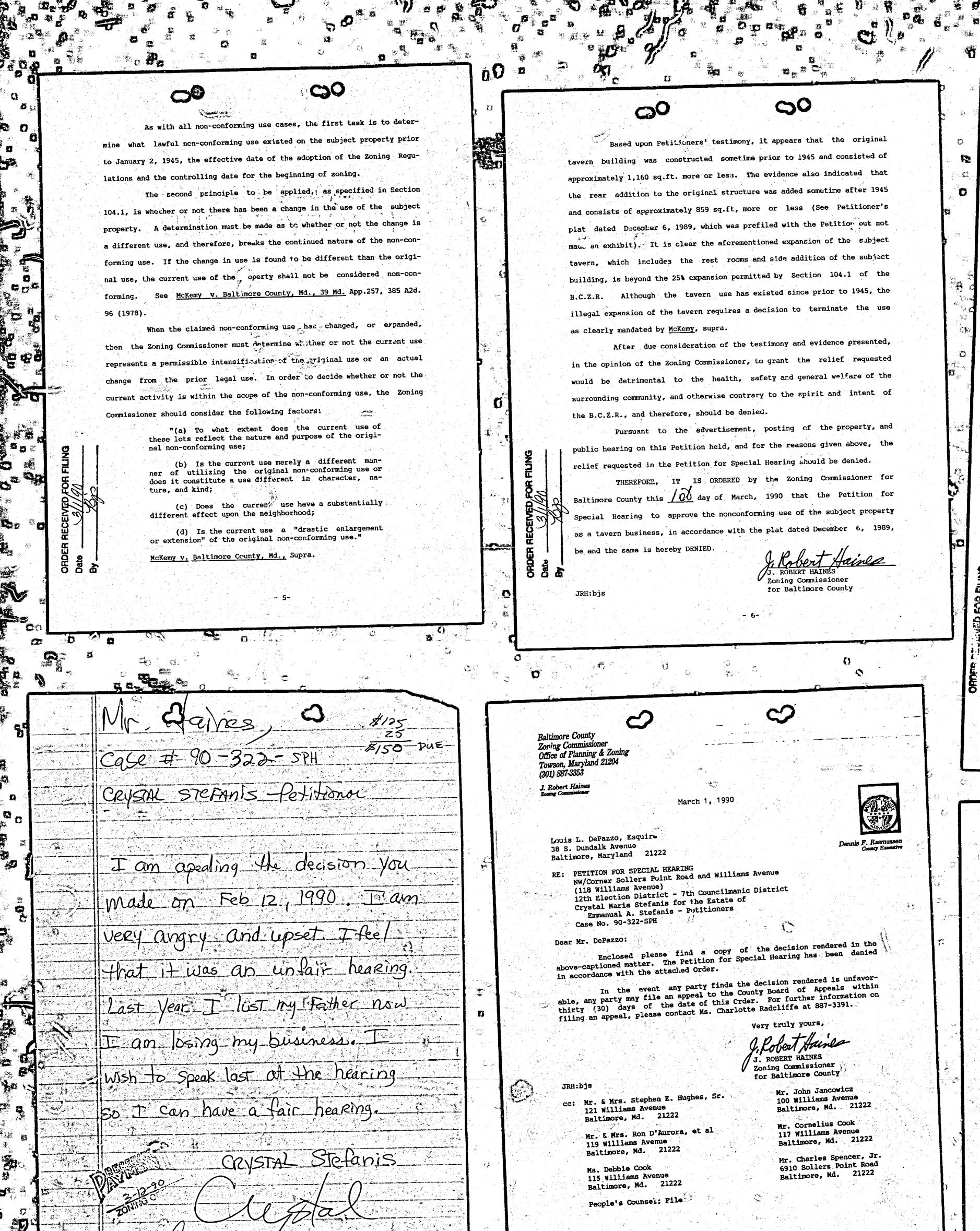
conforming use. Section XI, 1945, B.C.Z.R. Baltimore County adopted a new set of comprehensive zoning regu-

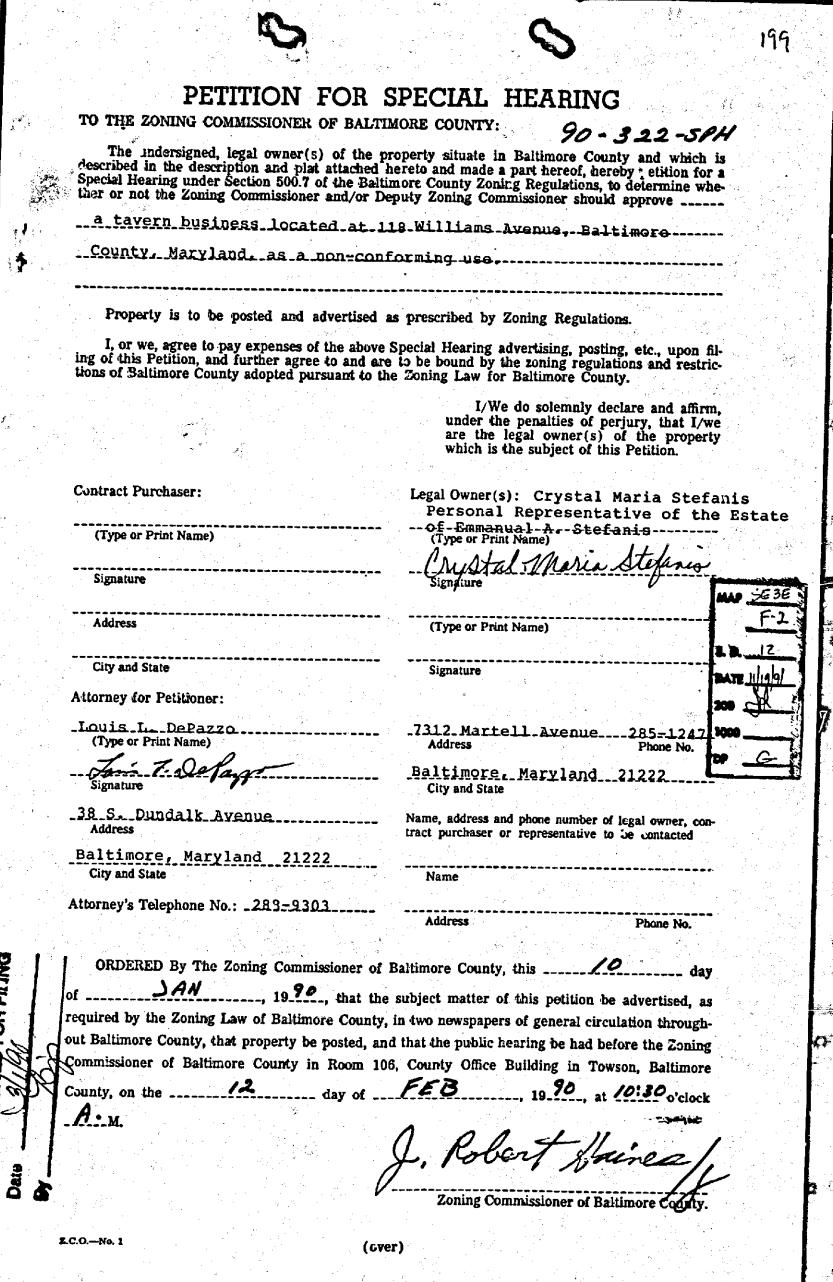
lations on March 30, 1955. The issue of nonconforming uses are dealt with in Section 104 or those regulations. The Section then read:

"104.1 - A lawful nonconforming usa existing on the effective date of the adoption of these regulations may continue; provided that upon any change from such nonconforming use to any other use whatsoever, or any abandonment or discontinuance of such nonconferming use for a period of one year or more, or in case any nonconforming business or manufacturing structure shall be damaged by fire or other casualty to the extent of seventy-five (75%) percent of its roplacement cost at the time of such loss, the right to continue or resume such is conferming use shall terminate. No nonconforming building or structure and no nonconforming rise of a building, tructure, or parcel or land shall hereafter be extended more than 25% of the ground floor area of buildings so used."

Section 104.1 was changed to its current language on March 15. 1976 by Bill No. 18-76. The current effective regulation reads as follows:

"A nonconforming use (as defined in Section 101) may continue except as otherwise specifically provided in these Regulations; provided that upon any change from such nonconforming use to any other use whatsoever, or any abandonment or discontinuance of such no conform ing use for a period of one year or more, or in case any nonconforming business or manufacturing structure shall be damaged by fire or other casualty to the extent of seventy-five (75%) percent of its replacement cost at the time of such loss, the right to co. tinue or resume such nonconforming use shall terminate. No nonconforming building or structure and no nonconforming use of a building, structure, or parcel of land shall hereafter be extended more than 25% of the ground floor area of buildings so used (B.C.Z.R., 1955; Bill No. 18, 1976)."





Baltimore County
Department of Permits & Licenses
111 West Chesapcake Avenue

Kodenski and Canaras
19 E. Fayotte Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attn: Mr. Melvin J. Kodenski, Esq.

Re: 118 Williams Avenue

sticker signed by H. Royhan. The sticker indicated a final inspection approval for an addition and was signed and finaled in May of 1972. The

sticker indicates that there was a permit for the addition and that all

the lack of later stickers would appear to bear this out.

Ms. Crystal Maria Stefanis

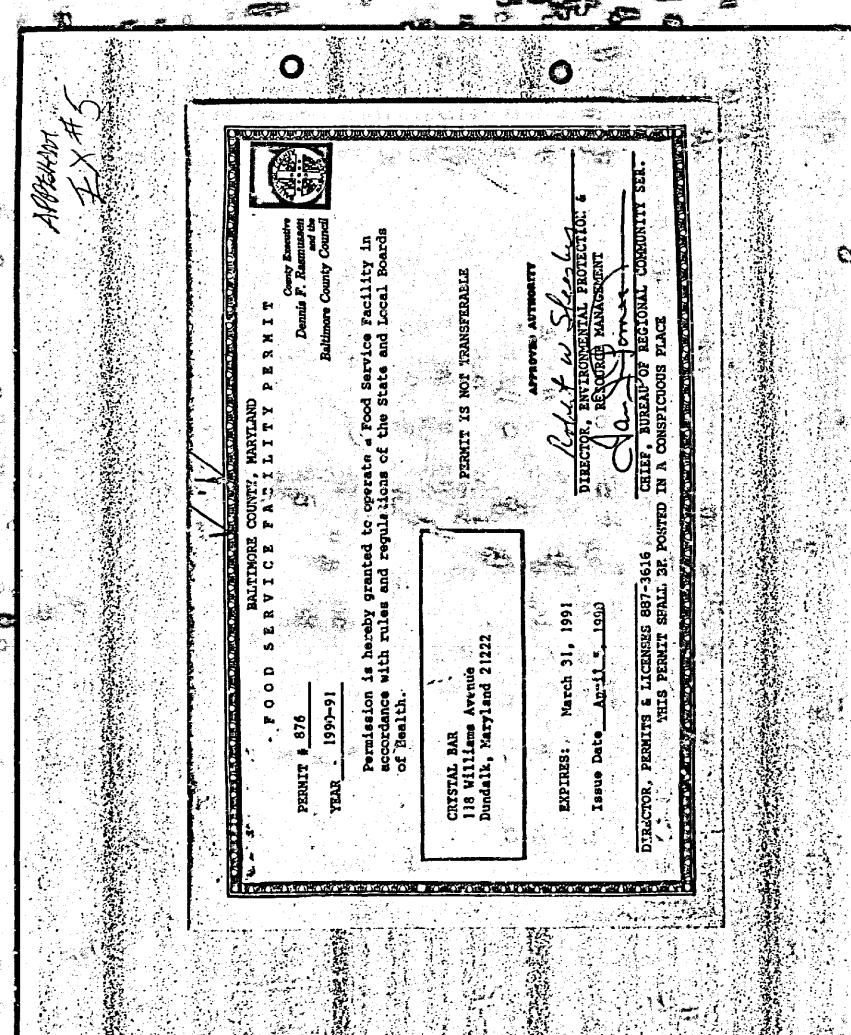
Towson, Maryland 21204 (301) 887-3610

Ted Zaleski, Jr.

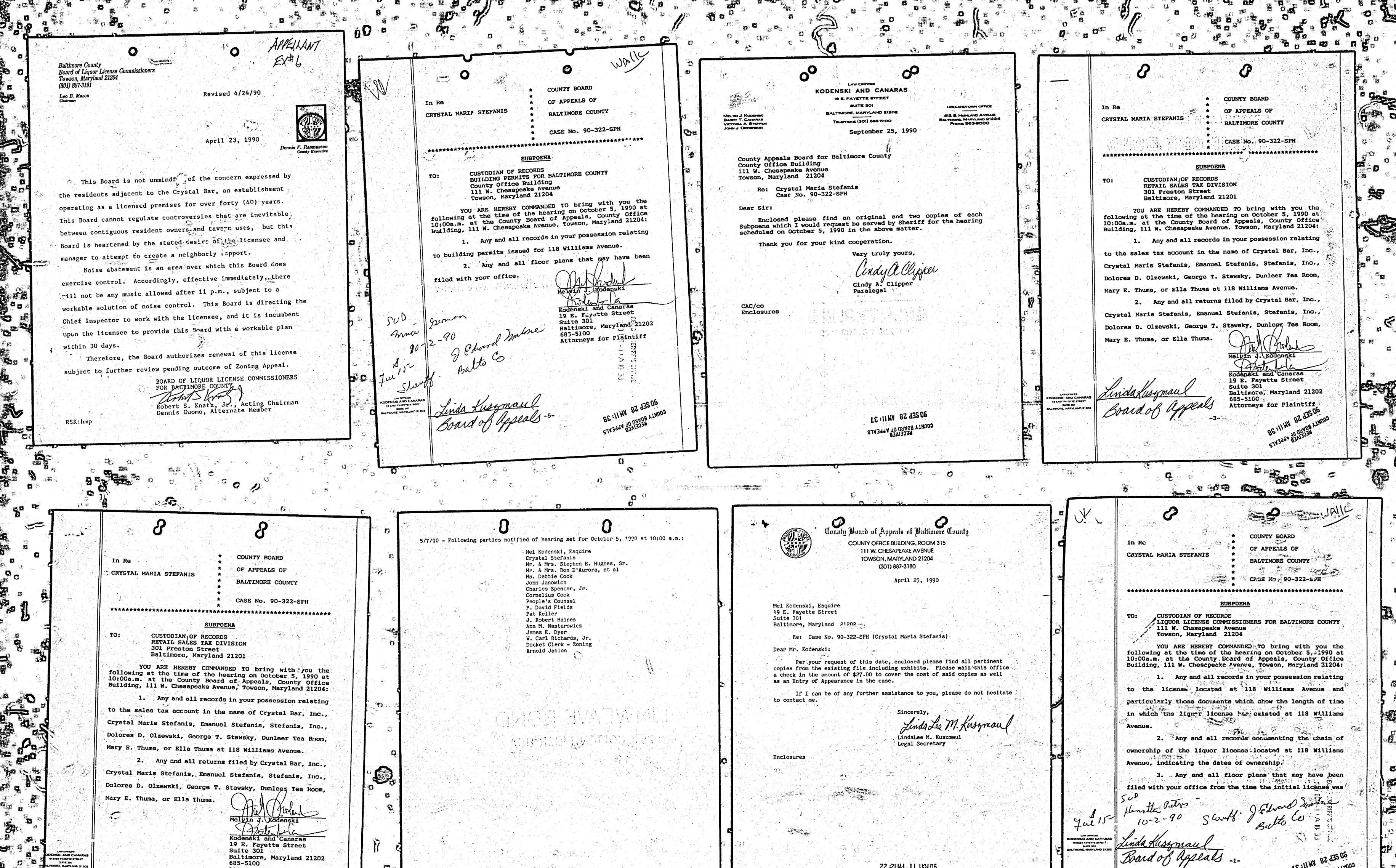
Suite 301

FRANK S. LEE Registered Land Surpeyor 1277 NEIGHBORS AVE. - BALTIMORE, MD. 21237 December 6, 1989 Crystal Tavern 118 Williams Avenue 12th District Baltimore Co ty, Maryland Beginning for the same at the intersection of Williams Avenue and Sollers Point Road, thence running and binding on the north side of Williams Avenue North 83 degrees 00 minutes West 157.92 feet, thence leaving Williams Avenue and running North 7 degrees 00 minutes East 89.54 feet tp the southwest side of Sollers Point Road, thence binding on the southwest side thereof South 53 degrees 27 minutes East 181.54 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 7066.56 square feet of land more or less. Being lots 247,248,249 and 250, plat of New Pittsburg, 3/72 

Phone: 687-6922

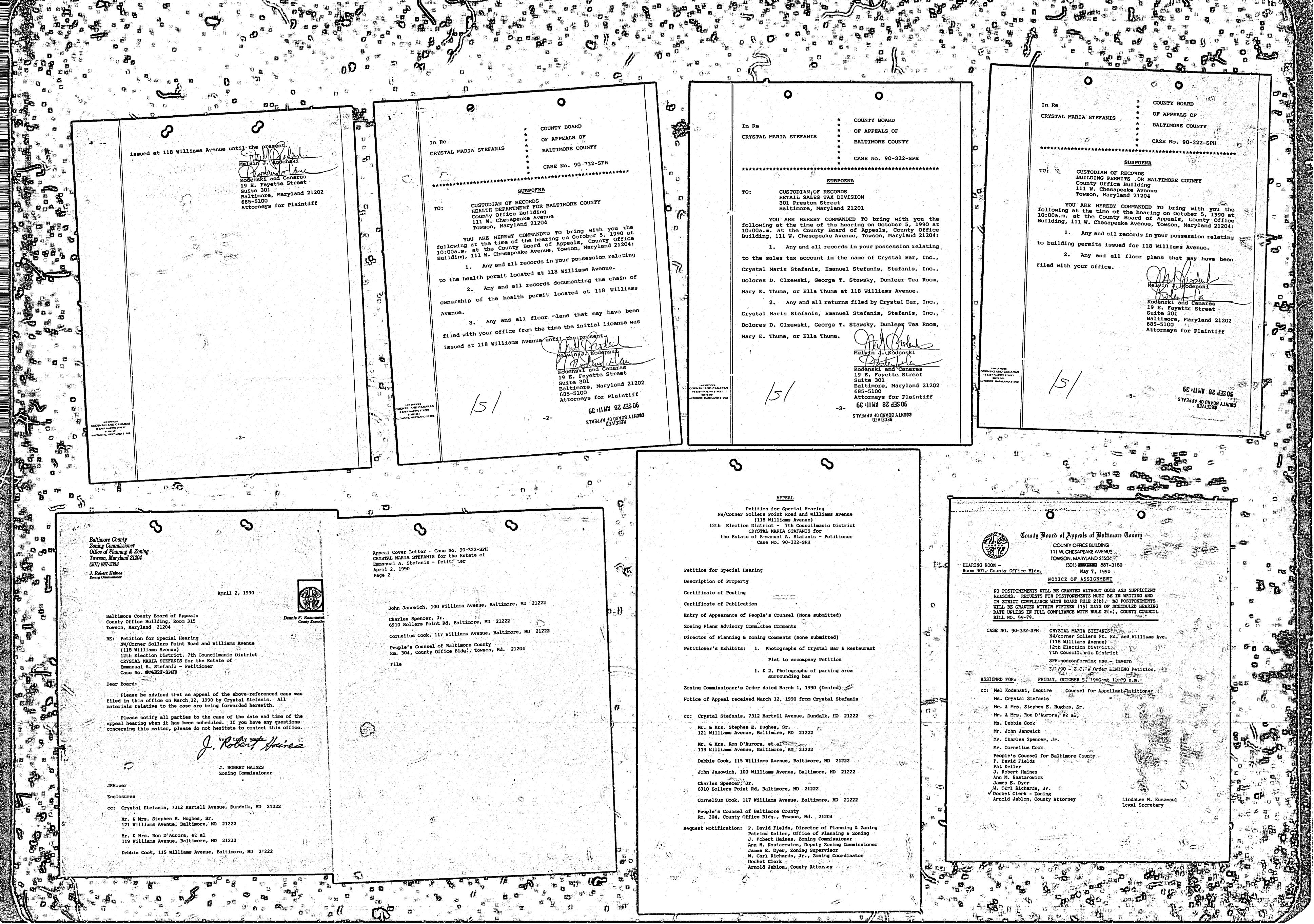


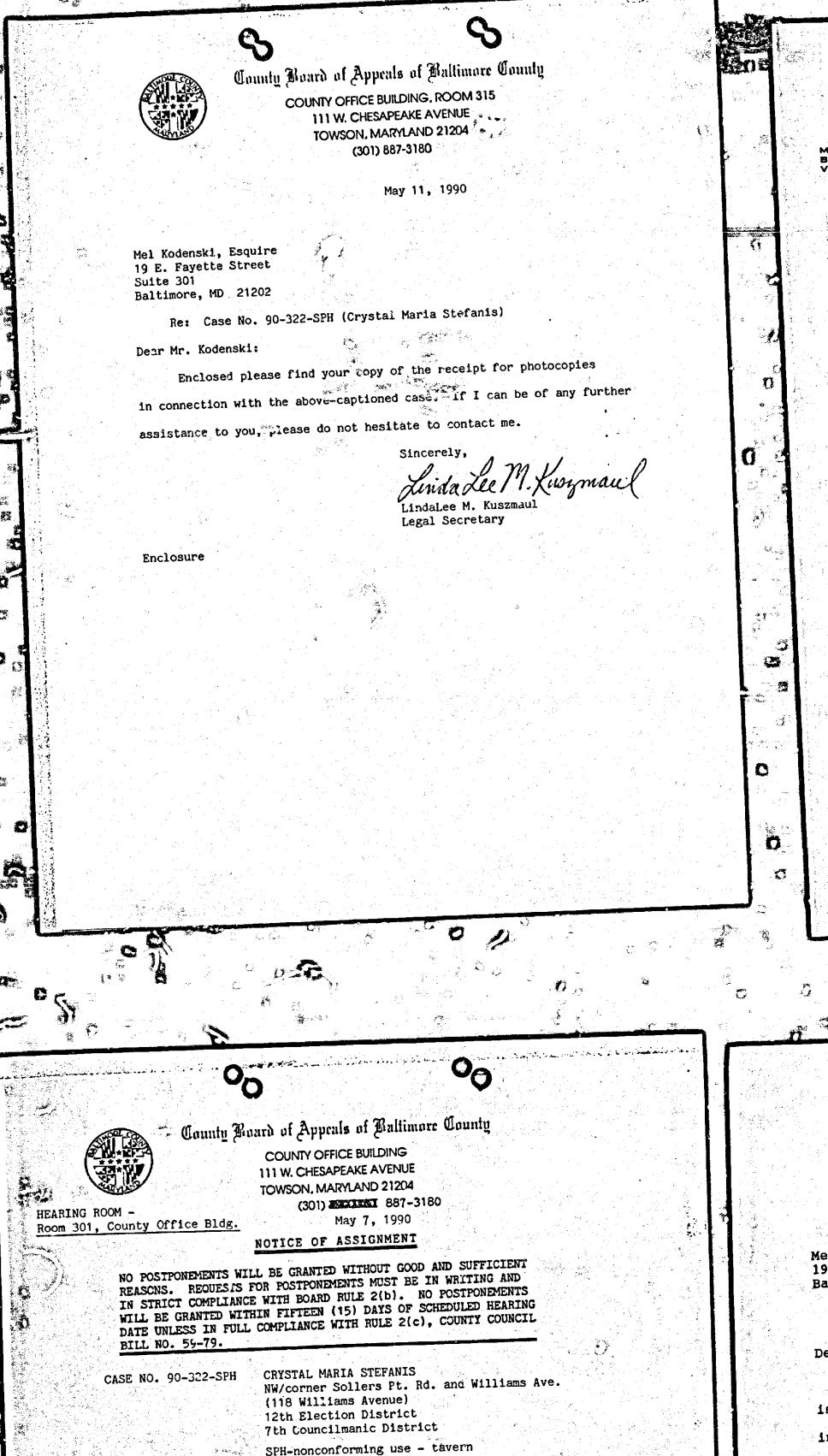
Our paper records do not go back that far so a copy of the permit is



Attorneys for Plaintiff

SOWAY II PAIZ: 22 CODNIX BOARD OF APPEALS





3/1/90 - Z.C.'s Order DENYING Petition.

LindaLee M. Kuszmaul

Legal Secretary

People's Counsel for Baltimore County out per Shirley
P. David Fields

Ms. Crystal Stefanis

Ms. Debbie Cook

Pat Keller

J. Robert Haines Ann M. Nastarowicz

James E. Dyer W. Carl Richards, Jr. Docket Clerk - Zoning

Arnold Jablon, County Attorney

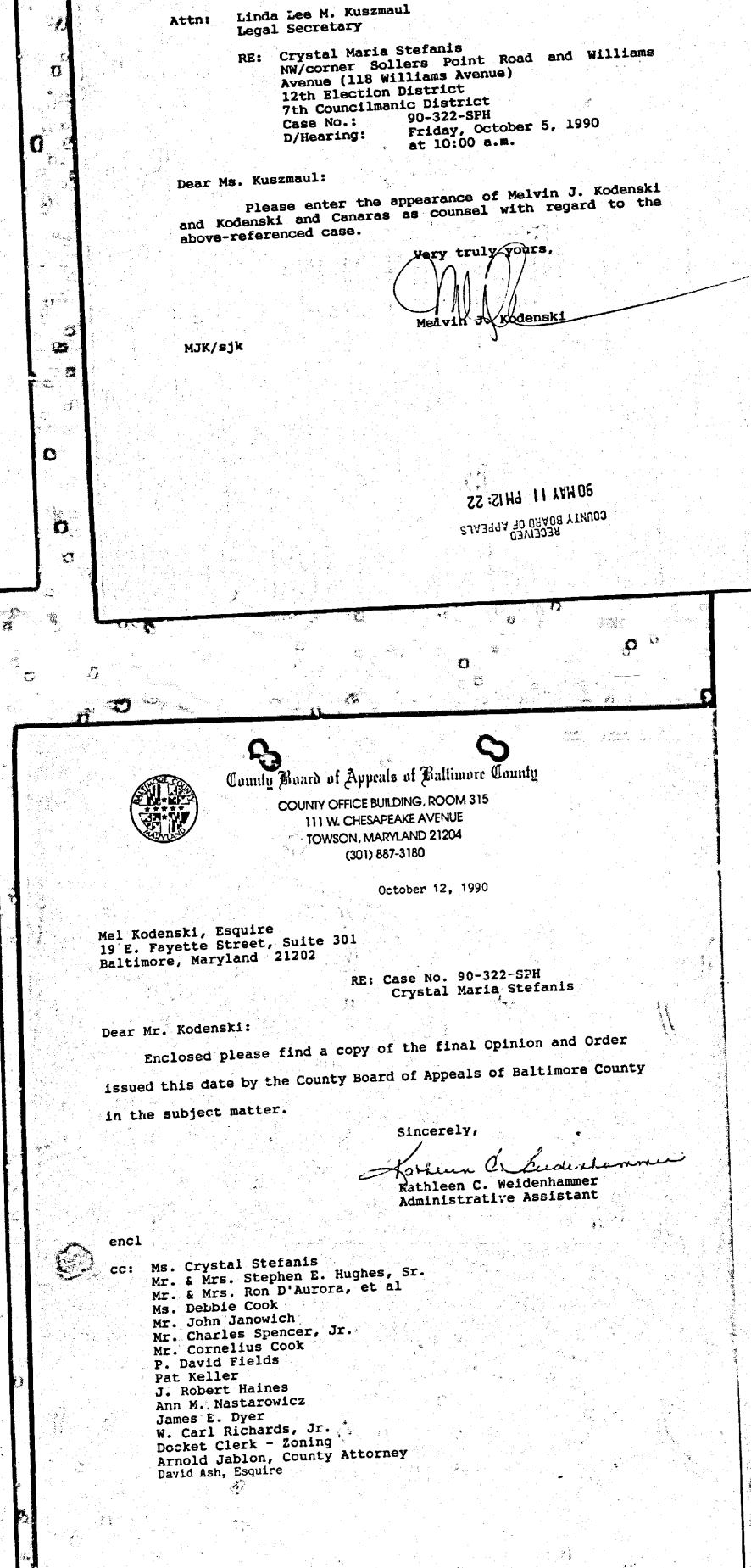
Mr. John Janowich

Mr. Cor, elius Cook

Mr. Charles Spencer, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Hughes, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Ron D'Aurora, et al



KODENSKI AND CANARAS

19 E. FAYETTE STREET

SUITE 301

BALTMORE, MARYLAND 21202

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County Board of Appeals

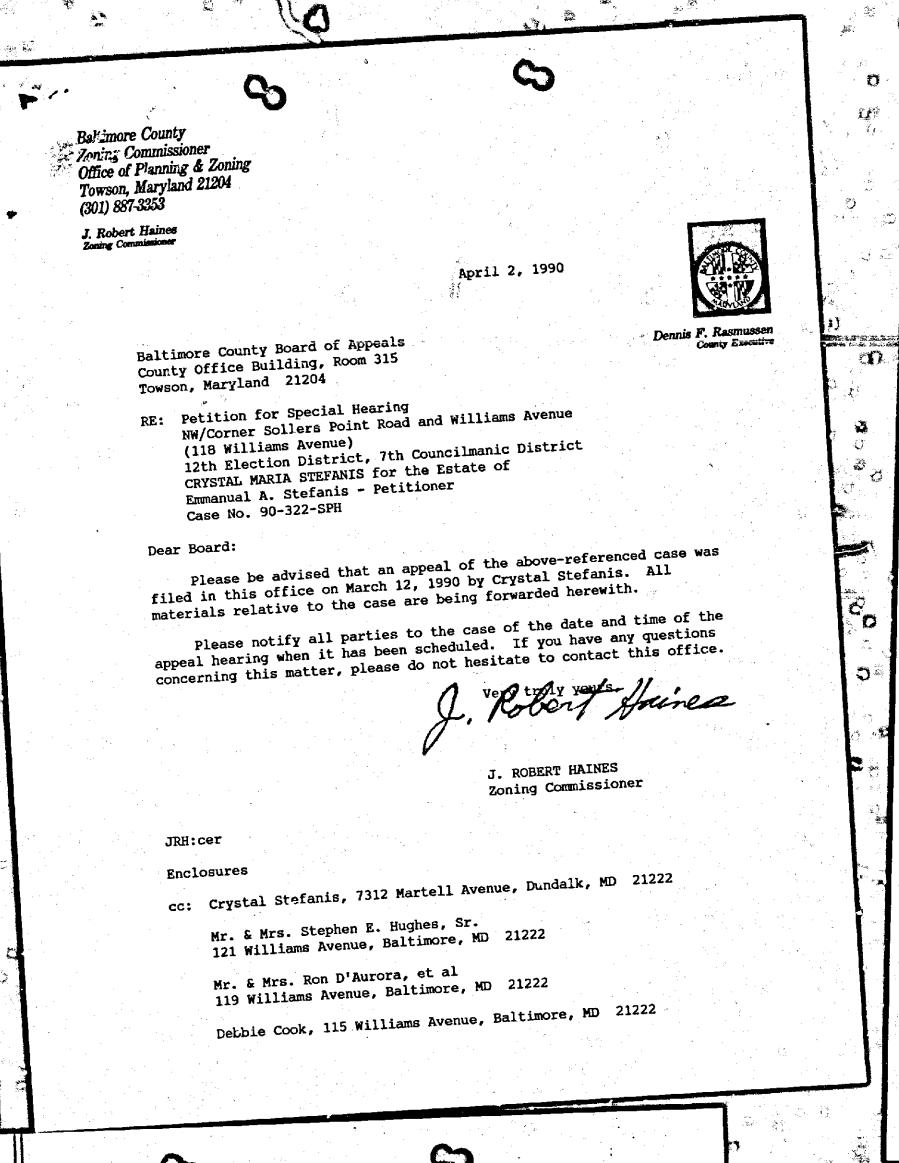
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

of Baltimore County
County Office Building

May 10, 1990

412 & HOLAND AVENE

BALTIMORE MARYLAND 21224 PHONE 563-9000



Appeal Cover Letter - Case No. 90-322-SPH CRYSTAL MARIA STEFANIS for the Estate of Emmanual A. Stefanis - Petitioner April 2, 1990 Page 2 John Janowich, 100 Williams Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222 Charles Spencer, Jr. 6910 Sollers Point Rd, Baltimore, MD 21222 Cornelius Cook, 117 Williams Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222 People's Counsel of Baltimore County Rm. 304, County Office Bldg., Towson, Md. 21204

I am apealing the decision you Mnade on Feb 12, 1990. I am very angry and upset. I fee! that it was an unfair hearing. 11 Last Year I lost my Father now II am losing my business. I Wish to Speak last of the hearing Bo I can have a fair hearing. CRYSTAL Stefanis

Case # 90-322-5PH

CRYSTAL STEFANIS -Petitional

BALTIMORE COUNTY CRYSTAL MARIA STEFANIS CASE No. 90-322-SPH CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS County Office Building

/ 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO bring with you the following at the time of the hearing on October 5, 1990 at 10:00a.m. at the County Board O. Appeals, County Office Building, 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204: 1. Any and all records in your possession relating to the health permit located at 118 Williams Avenue. 2. Any and all records documenting the chain of ownership of the health permit located at 118 williams Any and all floor plans that may have been filed with your office from the time the initial license was issued at 118 Williams Avenue until the present Suite 301
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
685-5100
Attorneys for Plaintiff

\$150 PUE

